

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 18, 20, and 22-35 are pending. In the present amendment, Claim 18 is amended; and Claim 21 is canceled. Support for the present amendment can be found in the originally filed specification, for example, at page 12, line 1 to page 13, line 36, in Figure 1, and in Claim 21. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 18 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Dawlr (GB 2248160) in view of Pikhard (EP 0490723); Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Dawlr in view of Pikhard, and further in view of Niekrasz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,691,486, hereinafter “Niekrasz”); Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Dawlr in view of Pikhard, and further in view of Mischel, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,408,069, hereinafter “Mischel”); Claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Dawlr in view of Pikhard and further in view of Heiko et al. (DE 19860870, hereinafter “Heiko”); Claims 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Dawlr in view of Pikhard, and further in view of Di Trapani (U.S. Patent No. 5,624,591); Claims 28-30, 32, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Dawlr in view of Pikhard, and further in view of Nikodem et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,786,784, hereinafter “Nikodem”); Claims 34 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Dawlr in view of Pikhard, and further in view of DuRocher et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,918,783, hereinafter “DuRocher”); and Claim 31 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Dawlr in view of Pikhard and Nikodem, and further in view of Carter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,918,288, hereinafter “Carter”).

Turning now to the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), these rejections are respectfully traversed as discussed below.

Amended Claim 18 recites:

A laminated panel element comprising:

at least two rigid panes bonded to each other on their surfaces, which are each provided, over their whole surface, with an electrically conductive coating that can be heated by application of a voltage via electrodes; and

wherein one of the two rigid panes is provided with a cut-out, in a connection area, allowing passage of external electrical connections that are in electrical contact with the two coatings, two surfaces of the two rigid panes facing each other are provided with electrically conductive coatings on either side of an adhesive layer that joins the panes, said cut out extends at least partially through said adhesive layer ***and wherein a connecting device is located in the cut-out and electrically connected to at least two of the electrically conductive coatings.***

It is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not disclose or suggest every feature recited above.

Dawlr describes a heatable mirror including a laminated assembly 1 formed by a glass sheet 2 bearing an opaque metal coating 3 reflecting light in a mirror image and joined by lamination to a glass sheet 4 with two polymer films 5 and 6 interposed between a conductive layer 7 on the glass sheet 4 and the metal coating 3 on the glass sheet 2.¹ The outstanding Office Action takes the position that the “opaque metal coating 3” and the “conductive layer 7” equate to the claimed “electrically conductive coating” provided on the at least two rigid panes.

However, it is respectfully submitted that Dawlr does not disclose or suggest “a connecting device located in the cutout and electrically connected to at least two of the electrically conductive coatings,” as recited in amended Claim 18.

¹ See Dawlr, at page 9, lines 22-31, and in Figure 2.

Instead, as discussed above, the metal coating 3 described in Dawlr is merely a surface on the glass sheet 2 to reflect light in mirror image form. It is respectfully submitted that Dawlr does not disclose or suggest that anything is electrically connected to the metal coating 3. Additionally, as can be seen in Figure 2 of Dawlr, there is nothing located in the cutout in the adhesive layer 6 that is electrically connected to the opaque metal coating 3. Therefore, Dawlr does not disclose or suggest that a connecting device is located within a cutout in the adhesive layer 6 and electrically connected to the opaque metal covering 3.

Pikhard describes a laminated glass glazing including a first glass sheet 2 and a second glass sheet 1 with an intermediate thermoplastic layer 3 placed therebetween.² Additionally, Pikhard describes a cable connecting element 10 located in a recessed portion of the first glass pane 2 and connected to foil strips 5, 6 having heating wires 4 embedded therebetween.³

However, it is respectfully submitted that Pikhard does not disclose or suggest “a connecting device located in the cutout and electrically connected to at least two of the electrically conductive coatings,” as recited in amended Claim 18.

Instead, as can be seen in Figure 1 of Dawlr, the intermediate thermoplastic layer 3 insulates the second glass pane 1 from having any contact with the cable connecting element 10 or the two foil strips 5, 6 with the heating wires 4 embedded therebetween. Thus, the cable connecting element 10 is not electrically connected to the second glass sheet 1.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that neither Dawlr nor Pikhard discloses or suggests “a connecting device located in the cutout and electrically connected to at least two of the electrically conductive coatings.” Thus, even assuming the combination is proper, the combination of Dawlr in view of Pikhard does not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claim 18. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection of

² See Pikhard, in Figure 1 and in Claim 1.

³ See Pikhard, in Figure 1, and in Claims 1 and 4.

Claim 18, and all claims dependent thereon, as unpatentable over Dawlr in view of Pikhard be withdrawn.

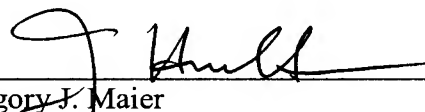
Turning now to the remaining rejections in the outstanding Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that none of the remaining secondary references (Niekrasz, Mischel, Heiko, Di Trapani, Nikodem, DuRocher, and Carter) cure the deficiencies noted above with respect to the combination of Dawlr in view of Pikhard. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 18, and all claims dependent thereon, patentably define over all of the cited references. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejections of Claims 18 and 20-35 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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